



## **King County**

### **Department of Community and Human Services**

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### **Veteran Citizens Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB) Meeting Summary February 17, 2011 2-4 p.m. Beacon Hill Library 2821 Beacon Ave. S., Seattle**

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Doug Hoople at 2:05 p.m. A quorum was declared.

#### **Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** Oren Hadaller, Doug Hoople - Chair, Gary Kingsbury – Vice-chair, Kathy Lewis, Robert Stephens, Jr.

**Board Members Excused/Absent:** Cynthia Lefever, Roger Welles, Bill Wood

**King County Staff Present:** Joel Estey, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Debora Gay, DCHS; Laird Heia, DCHS; John Hoskins, DCHS; Linda Peterson, DCHS.

**Guests:** Lauren Peach, NW Justice Project.

#### **Levy Renewal - Debora Gay**

Debora Gay explained the current levy renewal timeline, Levy steering committee participants and the meeting schedule that is necessary in order to have board recommendations to provide to the Executive in April.

Debora asked board members four questions and facilitated the discussion:

1. What have been the levy's greatest accomplishments?
2. Should the levy remain at a 50/50 split between Veterans and Human Services?
3. Should the Strategy/Activity structure be retained basically as it is?
4. What changes in the funding environment should be considered?

A summary of responses is noted below. Where possible, items are grouped according to subject area.

### **What have been the Levy's greatest accomplishments?**

Improved coordination of services and systems with the Ten-Year Plan

- The levy funded Housing First projects have prevented homelessness by helping a number of homeless veterans.
- Collaborative funding opportunities have allowed providers to develop more units of housing. Levy funding leveraged \$181,684,672 in other fund sources (including other sources administered by the KC HCD program).
- The Landlord Liaison project has significantly increased the number of rental properties available to veterans who might otherwise have difficulty obtaining housing.

Improved understanding of veterans needs

- The levy raised public and provider awareness of veterans' issues.
- There is broader understanding of the needs of women in the military including their experience with Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and PTSD
- The training provided to first responders and others on the veterans' culture has been of great benefit.

Greater access to KCVP services throughout the county

- The addition of KCVP's satellite service sites has made veterans' services accessible throughout the county.

### **Should the Levy remain at a 50/50 split between Veteran and Human Services? If not, what?**

The overall consensus was to maintain the 50/50 split between Veterans funds and Human Services funds.

### **Should the Strategy/Activity structure be retained basically as it is? If not, what?**

The board expressed support for the current structure as well as discussed the following issues:

- Including Veterans' Levy dollars in Strategy 4 (Strengthening families at risk)?
- Should some of the next levy's funds go towards helping replace the loss of other funding for existing programs?
- Review if the current levy programs are meeting the needs of new veterans coming home?
- Are there ways that the regional distribution of levy dollars can be more equitable?

### **What changes in the funding environment should be considered?**

- Support for the VA treating the whole family, not just the veteran.
- The loss of funding at the federal, state and local levels needs to be acknowledged. The levy is small and not able to fill all funding gaps but this issue is of key importance to programs.

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### **Chair's Report**

- Doug Hoople is attending the Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB) meetings.

### **Review of Meeting Summary**

The January 20, 2011 VCLOB Meeting Summary was approved as written.

### **King County Staff Report – Laird Heia, DCHS**

- Janna Wilson and Rachel Quinn, PHSKC, will present the PHISI work plan to the boards in March.
- The 2010 Annual Report is underway. The Program Managers have completed their statistical reports and are finalizing narrative reports. Preliminary design ideas include a new section on “life of levy” in order for the report to satisfy its council requirements and to be useful as a renewal tool. The letter from board chairs is being developed and will be shared as soon.
- The Evaluation unit is updating their evaluation of Levy activities that will be completed mid-year. The report will include 2010 data plus some life of levy information.
- The 2010 Capital Awards were announced. Updated spreadsheets were made available to the board members.
- The Washington State Military Kids and Families Summit will be held Friday, March 4 in Tacoma. All board members are welcome to attend.
- US Senator Patty Murray is sponsoring a Veterans Listening Session on Wednesday, February 23 at the Nisei Veteran's Hall. Board members are encouraged to attend.

### **Old Business**

- Board members asked to learn more about any restrictions on the advocacy activities they can engage in once the levy renewal issue is placed on the ballot.
- The board requested that Scott Swaim or Tom Schumacher provide an update on 3.2/3.3 and the Military Kids' curriculum.

### **New Business**

- Joel Estey briefed the board on Terry Home, Inc. a company that owns and operates a boarding home for young adult survivors of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in Pacific, Washington. This home provides residents with the opportunity to work toward a more independent lifestyle through structured programs and activities centered on strengthening daily living skills.

### **Petitions/Communication (public comment)**

- None

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.